

HONORING COMMUNITY PROTESTANT CHURCH OF CO-OP CITY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, a church can be the mainstay of a community, the bond which holds its people together in common purpose. In the Bronx, the Co-op City community is fortunate to have such a church, the Community Protestant Church of Co-op City.

And today I rise to congratulate that wonderful institution and its worshippers who are celebrating the church's 30th anniversary.

The Community Protestant Church started humbly enough with the organizational meeting of co-operators, as residents of Co-op City are called, in the spring of 1969. Initially services were held in the homes on a rotating basis before moving to a community room. Visiting ministers were provided by the Council of Churches on a weekly basis. The following year Temple Beth-El shared its space with the Church and the Rev. Julius Sasportas volunteered to serve as pastor.

It was on March 21, 1971, that the church was officially incorporated. That same year the church acquired and renovated space at 2053 Asch Loop North and in May of the following year moved into its new quarters. In December, 1972, the Rev. Daniel Ward was sent by the Southern Baptist Convention to serve as Pastor.

In the following years more space was acquired and in 1976 the Rev. Dr. Calvin E. Owens became the spiritual leader of the church. New land was acquired for a permanent home and in November 3, 1994, groundbreaking ceremonies were held.

I congratulate the Community Protestant Church on its 30th anniversary and wish the church many more years in the community.

IN HONOR OF ST. JOSEPH WORSHIP SPACE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedication of the St. Joseph Worship Space.

The Worship Space is an environment where, through private devotion and liturgical celebration, the sisters of St. Joseph may be united with God and with one another. The Worship Space provides the congregation with a much-needed facility where the sisters of St. Joseph and the community can gather to worship.

A Reservation Chapel has been set up for the use of private devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. The Reconciliation Chapel has been built and is dedicated for the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Also, seating for 250 people is available for liturgy, meetings, jubilees, Chapter assemblies, and, a gathering room has been established where the sisters can meet as well as extend their hospitality to the congregation.

My fellow colleagues, please join me honoring the dedication of the Sisters of St. Joseph Worship Space.

TRIBUTE TO REV. RICHARD ANDRUS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate, Rev. Richard Andrus upon his retirement from the ministry. His parishioners, colleagues, family and friends will honor him with a retirement dinner at the First United Methodist Church in Mount Clemens, MI.

Born in Reese, MI, in 1937, Reverend Andrus has dedicated much of his life to serving others. He entered the ministry in 1967, and has been a leader in nine different churches throughout his exemplary career. Currently, Reverend Andrus serves at the First United Methodist Church in Mount Clemens. He has been with the church for 7 years.

Prior to his arrival at First United Methodist Church in Mount Clemens, Reverend Andrus served in several area churches, including the Warren First United Methodist Church and the Warren Wesley Church. Prior to that, he was assigned to the New Baltimore Congregation and built the Grace United Methodist Church.

Reverend Andrus is a tireless advocate for the people of Macomb County. He formed the Macomb County Ministerium and has been a member of the Macomb Emergency Shelter Coalition for the last 10 years. Reverend Andrus is also a member of the Jail Ministry, the Healthier Macomb Organization and the Rotary Club. While serving in New Baltimore, he was also the Chaplain for the Civil Air Patrol at Selfridge Air Force Base.

For more than 32 years, Rev. Richard Andrus has given his time, love and patience to the people he has served. Now, it is my honor to give Reverend Andrus my heartfelt congratulations as he celebrates his retirement.

A TRIBUTE TO GLEN OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; RECIPIENT OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincerest congratulations to Glen Oaks Elementary School in San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of their receipt of the Blue Ribbon School Award.

Schools are awarded the Blue Ribbon School Award based on their performance in regards to several criteria, including: student focus and support; active teaching and learning; school organization and culture; challenging standard and curriculum; professional community; leadership and educational vitality; school, family, and community partnerships; and indicators of success.

Glen Oaks Elementary joins three other schools in San Antonio and forty other Texas schools, all of which excelled in these areas and were rewarded with the Blue Ribbon School Award from the United States Department of Education.

To receive consideration for this prestigious award, schools must be recommended for national recognition by their individual state department of education or sponsoring agency. Nominations are then evaluated by a National Review Panel including the Department of Education, the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Council for America Private Education and a select group of educators from around the country. The Secretary of Education then makes a final determination based on the recommendations of this panel.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Glen Oaks Elementary School will inspire others to provide the level of quality education that this Blue Ribbon School Award merits. I am proud to represent a district and hail from a state that has clearly placed an emphasis on the education of our children.

EDUCATION REFORM, A RURAL PERSPECTIVE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Gerald Keefe, Superintendent of Kit Carson School District R-1 and a member of my Fourth Congressional District Education Advisory Board. I would like to enter into the RECORD a recent letter from him on education reform.

Superintendent Keefe's common sense ideas emphasize the importance of basic values, including respect for elders, peers, teachers and community. Creating a school culture which affirms values is central not only to the success of the school but to the stability of society. To generate an environment of respect, schools should adopt high standards and good discipline measures.

Secondly, Superintendent Keefe stresses the need for local control. He believes cutting federal red tape to ensure money gets to the classroom is essential. Streamlining regulations, especially those revolving around the Individuals with Disabilities Act is also necessary to ensure each child gets the attention he or she needs to achieve.

I look forward to working with Superintendent Keefe as the Committee on Education and Workforce, of which I am a member, undertakes the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the primary source of education funding.

I would like to finish with a quote from author Robert Greenleaf: "Great ideas, it has been said, come into the world as gently as doves. Perhaps then, if we listen attentively, we shall hear, amid the uproar of empires and nations, a faint flutter of wings, the gentle stirring of life and hope."

In rural Colorado, far from Denver, far from the noisy rancor of Washington, far from the proposals and speeches, there are people who are making a difference with quiet confidence.

KIT CARSON SCHOOL DISTRICT R-1,

Kit Carson, CO.

Congressman BOB SCHAFFER,
Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SCHAFFER, First let me commend you on the outstanding job you are